

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. to 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus for storing aquatic animals, comprising
a tank for receipt of a plurality of aquatic animals, said tank having an upper portion and
a lower portion; and
means for delivering foam to the interior of the tank at the upper portion thereof such that
at least a majority of the aquatic animals when stored in the tank are submerged in foam.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the means for
delivering foam comprises:
means for circulating a liquid in said tank from the lower portion of the tank to the upper
portion of the tank; and
means for injecting a gas into said circulating means such that foam is generated in said
circulating means.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the gas injecting
means comprises a source of pressurized gas.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the gas injecting
means comprises means for introducing a property-enhancing substance into the foam.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 28 wherein the gas injecting
means comprises means for pulsing the gas as the gas is injected into the circulating means
whereby the foam can be applied over the aquatic animals in pulses.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the means for
delivering foam to the interior of the tank comprises:
a fluid conduit extending from the lower portion of the tank to the upper portion of the
tank, and

means for introducing a pressurized gas into the fluid conduit so as to generate a vacuum to suck fluid from the lower portion of the tank and deliver fluid to the upper portion of the tank via the fluid conduit, whereby the fluid can be applied as a foam over at least a majority of the aquatic animals when stored in the tank.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the means for delivering foam comprises a source of foam operatively connected to the interior of said tank.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 33 wherein the source of foam comprises a source of synthetic foam.

35. (Previously presented) An apparatus for storing aquatic animals, comprising
a tank for receipt of a plurality of aquatic animals, and
means for recirculating fluid from a lower region of the interior of the tank in which the aquatic animals are stored to an upper region of the interior of the tank, such that the fluid passes over at least a majority of the aquatic animals when stored in the tank and the natural proteins of the aquatic animals create a foam as the fluid is recirculated, whereby at least a majority of the aquatic animals when stored in the tank are submerged in foam.

36. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 35 comprising means for injecting a gas into said recirculating means such that foam is generated in said recirculating means.

37. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 36 wherein the gas injecting means comprises a source of pressurized gas.

38. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 36 wherein the gas injecting means comprises means for introducing a property-enhancing substance into the foam.

39. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 36 wherein the gas injecting means comprises means for pulsing the gas as the gas is injected into the circulating means whereby the foam can be applied over the aquatic animals in pulses.

40. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A method of storing aquatic animals, comprising the steps of

providing an apparatus as set forth in Claim 27 ~~a tank having an interior space~~;
loading a plurality of aquatic animals into the interior ~~space~~ of the tank; and
delivering foam to the interior ~~space~~ of the tank in an amount sufficient to submerge at least a majority of the aquatic animals in the tank in the foam.

41. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 40 wherein the step of the delivering the foam comprises delivering the foam at an upper portion of the tank.

42. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 40 comprising the step of packing the plurality of aquatic animals relatively tightly in the interior ~~space~~ of the tank to form a packed bed, so that the foam moves slowly around the plurality of aquatic animals in the tank.

43. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 40, comprising the steps of
providing a liquid in the tank so as to submerge at least a portion of the plurality of aquatic animals; and
recirculating the liquid from a lower portion of the interior of the tank to an upper portion of the interior of the tank and over at least a majority of the aquatic animals in the tank to generate foam from the natural proteins of the aquatic animals.

44. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 43, comprising the step of mixing pressurized gas with the liquid to enhance foam generation.

45. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 44, comprising the step of introducing the pressurized gas in pulses, so that the foam is recirculated into the upper portion of the tank and over the aquatic animals in pulses.

46. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 44, wherein step of mixing the pressurized gas comprises mixing pressurized gas that is refrigerated or humidified.

47. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 44, comprising the step of introducing a property-enhancing substance into the foam with the gas.

48. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method of storing aquatic animals, comprising the steps of

providing an apparatus as set forth in Claim 35 ~~a tank having an interior space~~;
loading a plurality of aquatic animals into the interior ~~space~~ of the tank;
filling at least a portion of the tank with liquid; and then
recirculating the liquid from a lower region of the interior ~~space~~ to an upper region of the interior ~~space~~ in a manner to provide foam in the interior ~~space~~ of the tank in an amount sufficient to submerge at least a majority of the aquatic animals in the tank in the foam.

49. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 48, comprising the step of mixing pressurized gas with the liquid to enhance foam generation.

50. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 49, comprising the step of introducing the pressurized gas in pulses, so that the foam is recirculated into the upper portion of the tank and over the aquatic animals in pulses.

51. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 49, wherein step of mixing the pressurized gas comprises mixing pressurized gas that is refrigerated or humidified.

52. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 49, comprising the step of introducing a property-enhancing substance with the gas.